

Babi Yar

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One of the worst atrocities attributed to the *Einsatzgruppen* was the Babi Yar massacre, which allegedly occurred in a large ravine outside Kiev in the Ukraine. The allegation is that *Einsatzgruppe C* rounded up 33,771 Jews in Kiev and shot all of them over the period September 29-30, 1941. [\[i\]](#) German Reserve Police Battalion 45 and Police Battalion 303 are said to have assisted in the operation. [\[ii\]](#) This article will examine the veracity of these allegations.

Einsatzgruppen Report

The figure of 33,771 Jews murdered at Babi Yar comes from *Einsatzgruppen* Event Report 106 of October 7, 1941. [\[iii\]](#) That the Germans let copies of the *Einsatzgruppen* reports fall into the hands of the Allies is strikingly odd. They could have easily burned these few stacks of incriminating papers before the Allies conquered Germany. [\[iv\]](#) The authenticity of the *Einsatzgruppen* reports has also been questioned because, like so much other “evidence” of Nazi atrocities, the documents emerged from the Soviet occupation zone. [\[v\]](#)

The *Einsatzgruppen* reports that have been produced are copies which often show clear signs of postwar additions, inaccurate and inflated figures, and rare signatures which appear on non-incriminating pages. Such reports would not constitute valid proof to historians or a legitimate court of law. [\[vi\]](#) It is also surprising that the alleged mass murder at Babi Yar took place almost four months prior to the Wannsee Conference, where the mass killing of Jews was allegedly first planned. [\[vii\]](#)

The very few figures given in Event Report 106 are provable fabrications. This report claims that there were about 300,000 Jews in Kiev at the time the report was made. The population of Kiev at the time of the report, however, had shrunk from 850,000 or more persons to about 305,000 due to evacuations. So if there had still been 300,000 Jews in Kiev on October 7, 1941, there would have been practically no one in Kiev who was *not* Jewish. The German experts who made the *Einsatzgruppen* reports would not have made such a major mistake in their report. [\[viii\]](#)

Cremation Eyewitness

Today there are no remains to be found of the tens of thousands of Jews allegedly murdered by the *Einsatzgruppen* at Babi Yar. The official Holocaust story claims that the Nazis sent a special team back to the site in 1943 to exhume and burn the bodies. [\[ix\]](#)

The Jew Vladimir K. Davidov is apparently the only survivor who claims to have participated in the cremation of bodies at Babi Yar. Davidov stated that on August 18, 1943, he and 99 other prisoners were taken to Babi Yar and forced to dig up the bodies of the Jews shot in 1941. He claimed that 70,000 bodies had been buried in the mass graves of Babi Yar. Davidov said that he and about 35 to 40 other prisoners escaped their own murders during the night of September 29. About 10 of his comrades were killed during this escape. [\[x\]](#)

According to Davidov, the prisoners exhumed the dead bodies and later burned them on grilles that consisted of granite blocks with train rails laid upon them. A layer of wood was piled on top of these grilles with the dead bodies piled on top of the wood. This resulted in an enormous stack of bodies 10 to

12 meters high. According to Davidov, there was only a single grille in the beginning, but later 75 grilles were built.[\[xi\]](#)

Davidov said that the cremation of the bodies at Babi Yar was finished on September 25 or 26, 1943. The German *Luftwaffe* took an aerial photograph of the area around Babi Yar on September 26, 1943.[\[xii\]](#) John C. Ball, a Canadian mineral-exploration geologist with experience interpreting air photos, has published this photograph with the following commentary:

Photo 2—September 26th, 1943:

This photo was taken one week after the end of the supposed mass cremations in the ravine. If 33,000 people were exhumed and burned evidence of vehicle and foot traffic to supply fuel should be evident in the area where the Jewish cemetery meets Babi Yar ravine, however there is no evidence of traffic either on the end of the narrow road that proceeds to the ravine from the end of Melnik Street, or on the grass and shrubbery or on the sides of the cemetery.[\[xiii\]](#)

Ball writes regarding an enlarged section of the same photograph:

An enlargement reveals no evidence that 325 people were working in the ravine finishing the cremation of 33,000 bodies just one week earlier, for many truckloads of fuel would have had to be brought in, and there are no scars from vehicle traffic either on the grass and shrubs at the side of the Jewish cemetery or in the ravine where the bodies were supposedly burned.

1943 air photos of Babi Yar Ravine and the adjoining Jewish cemetery in Kiev reveal that neither the soil nor the vegetation is disturbed as would be expected if materials and fuel had been transported one week earlier to hundreds of workers who had dug up and burned tens of thousands of bodies in one month.[\[xiv\]](#)

Ball's findings are all the more valuable since according to Davidov the cremation of the bodies at Babi Yar was completed on the same day or the day before the photo of September 26, 1943 was taken. This would have left behind clear evidence from the cremation of the bodies that would have shown on the photo. Carlo Mattogno and Jürgen Graf write:

[T]he cremation of 33,771 bodies would have required approximately 4,500 tons of firewood and approximately 430 tons of wood ashes and about 190 tons of human ashes would have been generated by the process. Moreover, several dozen tons of granite (gravestones and monuments) would have had to have been transported from the Jewish cemetery to Babi Yar and back again in order to construct the support for the 75 "ovens." If the claims put forward about Babi Yar were true, all of this would have had to leave behind unmistakable traces on the air photo of September 26, 1943.[\[xv\]](#)

If 33,771 Jews had been shot at Babi Yar, large numbers of rifle bullets would have also remained at the site. To shoot people with rifles, one needs at least twice as many bullets as there are people to be shot. Since the lead core of bullets survives practically forever, finding the remains of these bullets would have been an easy matter.[\[xvi\]](#)

No one ever conducted a detailed forensic investigation to confirm the witness statements and allegations at Babi Yar. Why was no detailed forensic investigation ever conducted at Babi Yar? The only reasonable answer is that the mass shootings of Jews at Babi Yar never took place. Since there is no material evidence for the mass shootings and cremation of the bodies at Babi Yar, and since the

photograph of September 26, 1943 disproves these allegations, Davidov's eyewitness testimony is clearly inaccurate.^[xvii]

Survivor Eyewitnesses

Some Jewish survivors and authors have described the massacre at Babi Yar. Elie Wiesel wrote in one of his books that after Jews were executed at Babi Yar: "Eye witnesses say that for months after the killings the ground continued to spurt geysers of blood. One was always treading on corpses."^[xviii] Wiesel later repeated this claim with some embellishment: "Later, I learn from a witness that, for month after month, the ground never stopped trembling; and that, from time to time, geysers of blood spurted from it."^[xix] This story lacks all credibility.

A. Anatoli Kuznetsov wrote a novel titled *Babi Yar* to document the alleged Babi Yar massacre. The author was born in Kiev on August 18, 1929.^[xx] Thus, he was only 12 years old when the alleged massacre of Jews at Babi Yar took place. This is a relatively young age and tends to lessen his credibility.

Kuznetsov wrote: "On September 29th, 1941, for example, every single eye witness of what happened in Babi Yar was executed, but the people of Kureniovka knew all about it an hour after the first shots had been fired."^[xxi] So Kuznetsov says that he knows of no living eyewitnesses to the massacre of some 33,771 Jews at Babi Yar. Kuznetsov attempts to document the alleged atrocity at Babi Yar with almost exclusively hearsay evidence.

Dina Mironovna Pronicheva was a Jewess who says she survived the alleged massacre at Babi Yar. She is the only person believed to have fallen into the ravine unwounded and feigned death. Assuming various non-Jewish identities, she survived the German occupation of the Soviet Union during World War II. While nobody seems to have interviewed Pronicheva with a tape recorder, there are 12 written records of her testimony dating back to the 1940s. These records differ in substance, and most of the texts fail to meet the standards of contemporary oral history interviews.^[xxii]

Despite the inconsistencies in her testimony, historian Karel C. Berkhoff writes that historians of the alleged Babi Yar massacre should use Pronicheva's and other testimonies much more extensively. Berkhoff writes: "The fact remains that only very few sources come as close as Pronicheva's testimonies do to the horrendous details of Kiev's Jewish Holocaust."^[xxiii]

Berkhoff and other historians fail to acknowledge the extreme disparity in the eyewitness testimonies regarding the events at Babi Yar. For example, Pronicheva's accounts emphasize guns and rifles as the murder weapons. Other eyewitness accounts have included clubs, rocks, rifle butts, tanks, mines, hand grenades, gas vans, bayonets and knives, burial alive, drowning, injections, and electric shock as the murder weapons at Babi Yar. Herbert Tiedemann asked: "What would an unbiased court do if it had to pass judgement on an alleged mass murderer, if the witnesses were in such thorough disagreement?"^[xxiv]

Jürgen Graf writes concerning the contradictory testimony of witnesses at Babi Yar:

According to the established version of the facts, these 33,711 Jews were shot and their bodies thrown into the ravine of Babi Yar on 29 September 1941. But the first witnesses told completely different stories: The massacre was perpetrated in a graveyard, or near a graveyard, or in a forest, or in the very city of Kiev, or on the banks of the Dnieper. As to the murder weapons, the early witnesses spoke

of rifles, or machine guns, or submachine guns, or hand grenades, or bayonets, or knives; some witnesses claimed that the victims had been put to death via lethal injections whereas others asserted that they had been drowned in the Dnieper, or buried alive, or killed by means of electric current, or squashed by tanks, or driven into minefields, or that their skulls had been crushed with rocks, or that they had been murdered in gas vans. [\[xxv\]](#)

Conclusion

Witness testimonies of the alleged Babi Yar massacre have been given full credence by historians even though these testimonies contradict each other and claim the most ridiculous impossibilities. Also, no one ever tried to secure any evidence in order to prove the murders. The Soviets after the end of the war turned the ravine of Babi Yar into a municipal garbage dump, and later into a garbage-incineration site. It is no less incomprehensible that the Soviets intended to build a sports facility over this site of the alleged mass murder of 33,771 Jews. [\[xxvi\]](#)

The air photo taken of the ravine of Babi Yar on September 26, 1943 shows a placid and peaceful valley. Neither the vegetation nor the topography has been disturbed by human activity. There are no burning sites, no smoke, no excavations, no fuel depots, and no access roads for the transport of humans or fuel. We can conclude with certainty from this photo that no part of Babi Yar was subjected to topographical changes of any magnitude right up to the Soviet reoccupation of the area. Hence, the mass graves and mass cremations attested to by witnesses at Babi Yar did not take place. [\[xxvii\]](#)

Endnotes

[\[i\]](#) Winter, Peter, *The Six Million: Fact or Fiction?*, The Revisionist Press, 2015, p. 25.

[\[ii\]](#) Brandon, Ray and Lower, Wendy, *The Shoah in Ukraine: History, Testimony, Memorialization*: Bloomington, Ind.: Indiana University Press, 2008, p. 292.

[\[iii\]](#) Tiedemann, Herbert, "Babi Yar: Critical Questions and Comments," in Gauss, Ernst (ed.), *Dissecting the Holocaust: The Growing Critique of Truth and Memory*, Capshaw, Ala.: Theses and Dissertations Press, 2000, p. 521.

[\[iv\]](#) Mattogno, Carlo and Graf, Jürgen, *Treblinka: Transit Camp or Extermination Camp?*, Washington, D.C.: The Barnes Review, 2010, p. 204.

[\[v\]](#) Winter, Peter, *The Six Million: Fact or Fiction?*, The Revisionist Press, 2015, p. 25

[\[vi\]](#) Mattogno, Carlo and Graf, Jürgen, *Treblinka: Transit Camp or Extermination Camp?*, Washington, D.C.: The Barnes Review, 2010, pp. 203-211.

[\[vii\]](#) Tiedemann, Herbert, "Babi Yar: Critical Questions and Comments," in Gauss, Ernst (ed.), *Dissecting the Holocaust: The Growing Critique of Truth and Memory*, Capshaw, Ala.: Theses and Dissertations Press, 2000, p. 497.

[\[viii\]](#) *Ibid.*, pp. 499, 521.

[\[ix\]](#) Winter, Peter, *The Six Million: Fact or Fiction?*, The Revisionist Press, 2015, p. 25.

[x] Mattogno, Carlo and Graf, Jürgen, *Treblinka: Transit Camp or Extermination Camp?*, Washington, D.C.: The Barnes Review, 2010, pp. 220-221.

[xi] *Ibid.*, p. 220.

[xii] *Ibid.*, p. 221.

[xiii] Ball, John C., *Air Photo Evidence: Auschwitz, Treblinka, Majdanek, Sobibor, Bergen Belsen, Belzec, Babi Yar, Katyn Forest*, Delta, B.C., Canada: Ball Resources Services Limited, 1992, p. 107.

[xiv] *Ibid.*, p. 108.

[xv] Mattogno, Carlo and Graf, Jürgen, *Treblinka: Transit Camp or Extermination Camp?*, Washington, D.C.: The Barnes Review, 2010, p. 222.

[xvi] Tiedemann, Herbert, "Babi Yar: Critical Questions and Comments," in Gauss, Ernst (ed.), *Dissecting the Holocaust: The Growing Critique of Truth and Memory*, Capshaw, Ala.: Theses and Dissertations Press, 2000, p. 500.

[xvii] *Ibid.*, pp. 498-524.

[xviii] Wiesel, Elie, *The Jews of Silence*, London: Vallentine Mitchell, 1968, p. 37.

[xix] Wiesel, Elie, *Paroles d'étranger*, Paris: Editions du Seuil, 1982, p. 86.

[xx] Kuznetsov, A. Anatoli, *Babi Yar: A Document in the Form of a Novel*, New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1970, p. 14.

[xxi] *Ibid.*, p. 365.

[xxii] Brandon, Ray (editor) and Lower, Wendy (editor), *The Shoah in Ukraine: History, Testimony, Memorialization*, Bloomington, Ind.: Indiana University Press, 2008, pp. 294-295.

[xxiii] *Ibid.*, p. 309.

[xxiv] Tiedemann, Herbert, "Babi Yar: Critical Questions and Comments," in Gauss, Ernst (ed.), *Dissecting the Holocaust: The Growing Critique of Truth and Memory*, Capshaw, Ala.: Theses and Dissertations Press, 2000, p. 523.

[xxv] Graf, Jürgen, "The Moral and Intellectual Bankruptcy of a Scholar," *Inconvenient History*, Vol. 3, No. 4, 2011.

[xxvi] Tiedemann, Herbert, "Babi Yar: Critical Questions and Comments," in Gauss, Ernst (ed.), *Dissecting the Holocaust: The Growing Critique of Truth and Memory*, Capshaw, Ala.: Theses and Dissertations Press, 2000, pp. 524-525.

[xxvii] Ball, John Clive, "Air Photo Evidence," in Gauss, Ernst (ed.), *Dissecting the Holocaust: The Growing Critique of Truth and Memory*, Capshaw, Ala.: Theses and Dissertations Press, 2000, pp. 275, 284.

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